obiit. Fœminam iſtam adhuc viventem vidit non tantum, & hac figura ad vivum depingere curavit, ſed ipſam Plicam poſt obitum reſectam ſecum Wittebergam attulit Clariſſ. D. Flouricke dicti Principis Medicus. Erat autem Plica quatuor ulnas longa, palmum lata, duoſque pollices craſſa, ſed altero tanto longior foret, ipſo referente, niſi magna ejus pars, temporis quo ægra decubuit diuturnitate, ſqualore & attritu conſumpta fuiſſet. Hunc ergo Caſum penitus extraordinarium, illuſtriſſimæ Societati Regali exponere volui. Spero autem fore, ut impoſterum de circumſtantiis ſingularibus hujus caſus a laudato Viro certior reddar, quas alio tempore communicabo.

VIII. *An Extract of a Letter from Sir* Conrad Sprengell, *M. D. R. S. S. & Coll. Med.* Lond. *Licen. to Dr.* Mortimer; *wherein he incloſed the foregoing Account of the* Plica Polonica; *together with an Article from the* Breſlaw Sammlung von Natur- und Medicin, &c. Geſchichten *upon the ſame Subject, tranſlated from the* High-Dutch *by Dr.* Mortimer, *R. S. Secr.*

SIR, *January 20th,* 173⅝.

* * * THE PLICA has been always related, and thought to be a Diſtemper, and to proceed from a Fever or Convulſions; but for my Part, from the beſt Information I could get concerning it, I

think it a Product of Naſtineſs, by not combing their Hair, nor waſhing their Heads; for if it were a real Diſtemper, the People of Faſhion could no more be free from it than the ordinary People, among whom (*i. e.* the ordinary and poor) it only happens. This is confirmed by an inquiſitive Perſon, (a Correſpondent of Mr. *Joh. Henry Lincke, F. R. S.* of *Lipſick*,) who ſent the following Article to the Society of *Breſlaw*, in whoſe *Tranſactions*, entituled, **Sammlung von Natur-** &c. *Anno* 1724, *Artic.* 17, *Menſe Auguſto*, *p.* 126, it is inſerted to this Purpoſe.)

" The great Multitude of People in *Poland*, who " are troubled with this PLICA, firſt made me re- " flect, whether it were a real Diſeaſe or no? I " am now convinced, that their ſwiniſh Way of li- " ving, and the common Opinion ſo deeply rooted in " the Generality of People, that this Lock of Hair " cannot be taken off without Danger of their Lives, " have contributed more to this Complaint than any " real Indiſpoſition of Body; conſidering that it is " the middling or poor People, who are troubled " with it; whom then one cannot look on without " Horror: But no *German*, of whom there are great " Numbers, who live in that Country, ever had any " ſuch thing grow. Many of them, who are mar- " ried to Women of *Poliſh* Birth, are ſcarce able to " perſwade their Wives not to train up their Chil- " dren to this Naſtineſs. Not long ſince I ſaw a " Fellow in the Church, who had about ſeventy of " ſuch Locks hanging down from his Head, which

" were

" were as hard twiſted, as ſo many Penny Cords ;
" that one might eaſily have taken his for a *Medu-*
" *ſa*'s Head (and who knows, but that in ancient
" Times ſome ſuch Locks as theſe might have given
" Riſe to the Poetical Fiction of Snakes growing
" on the Head inſtead of Hair ? Be that as it will,
" this is certain, it is a moſt odious Sight to look
" on.

IX. *An Account of an unuſual Agitation in the* Magnetical Needle, *obſerved to laſt for ſome Time, in a Voyage from* Maryland, *by Capt.* Walter Hoxton; *communicated in a Letter to* David Papillon, *Eſq*; *F. R. S.*

ON the ſecond of *September*, 1724, a little after Noon, being in Latitude 41° 10′ N. and Difference of Longitude from Cape *Henry* in *Virginia* about 28° 00′ E. the Weather fair, a moderate Gale, and ſmooth Sea, my Mate, who was on the Deck, came and told me, that the Compaſs traverſed ſo much that he could not poſſibly ſteer by it: Whereupon I went up, and after trying it in ſeveral Parts of the Ship, found what he ſaid to be true. I then had all my Compaſſes brought up, and placed in different Parts of the Ship, and in Places moſt remote from Iron, and, to my great Surprize, found them all in the ſame Condition; ſo that we could not ſteer by any of them. I then new touched ſome of them with a Loadſtone,

which